

PONTIAC AND ENVIRONS.

• • • 1890 • • •

ARTISTIC AND POETIC.



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RICHARD ACTON,  
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## INTRODUCTION.



IN presenting my publication, "Pontiac and Environs," I make no claim for it further than that of its being one of highly artistic merit, with just such letterpress matter as may suffice to give a poetic and artistic description of one of the most picturesque and at the same time sociable little towns the writer has ever had the pleasure of visiting.

The conception was born in art upon a visit made about a year since, and as art ignores anything bordering onto business scheming, so my book avoids everything approaching advertising or cheap flattery.


Business streets and blocks appear among its illustrations as representing the advancement of your little city, and to many recalling landmarks of the past.

Also a few representative residences, as a further token of progress, taste, education and wealth, together with the churches, public buildings and industries, are given space.

As said above, however, my work is intended as a purely artistic one, graced with a few charming poems (for which I am indebted to O. F. Pearre, Esq., whom I take this opportunity of thanking for his generous assistance). So its principal features, first of its poetry, next of pretty landscapes, and last, but not least, the delightful scenery along the Vermillion, of which each point of interest and beauty is portrayed.

With the confident belief that in issuing such a work I have struck a tender chord, I submit my undertaking to the enlightened judgment of those for whose good taste the work has been prepared.

THE PUBLISHER.







MORSE SHOE BEND.





RESIDENCE OF JUDGE PAYSON.





AT THE RACES.

July 4th, 1890.





RESIDENCE OF S. H. RATHBONE.





JUST WEST OF MUGGS LANDING.





Interior of Catholic Church





S. W. Corner of Square.





*SOUTH SIDE OF SQUARE.*





THE VERMILLION.  
East from Bridge.



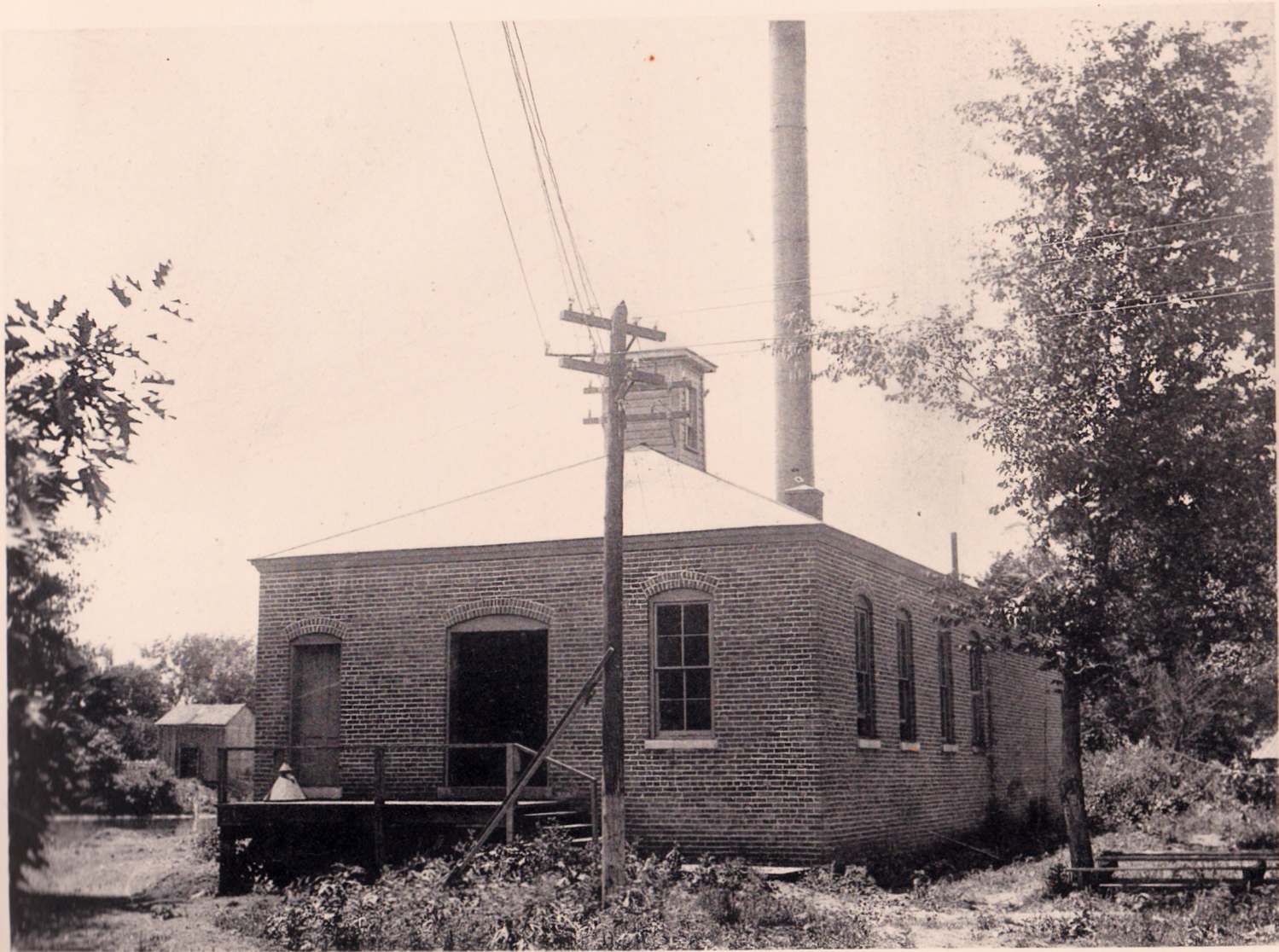


1  
**IN THE GROVE.**

Near Horse Shoe Bend.

A W Corran





The Electric Light Plant.





*The Presbyterian Church.*





Residences of C. W. Sterry and Dr. C. H. Long.





THE COURT HOUSE.





RESIDENCE OF C. A. MCGREGOR.



## THE BIRDS OF THE VERMILLION.

THERE is a lane through the old Patty farm,  
Hard by a wood, extending east and west;  
There nature always has the power to charm,  
But in the summer time I like it best.

Behind the wood the fair Vermillion sleeps,  
In front a cornfield stretches far away;  
Between the wood and field the fence row creeps,  
Half hid in vines and moulding to decay.

On either side the mound of trailing vines  
The sumac and the elders forms a hedge;  
And over all the fragrant wild hop twines,  
Bordered with pale, wild roses at the edge.

And there sweet-throated songsters congregate,  
And pour their music on the balmy air;  
For there each singer finds his chosen mate,  
They build their homes and rear their offspring there.

The red-bird whistles full and round and clear,  
The wax-wing answers to the robin's call;  
The scarlet-tanager and the finch are here,  
The nut-hatch, titmice and the linnets all.

That mincing cat-bird with his peevish cry  
Has yet another note that he can sing,  
And when he chooses thus his voice to try  
He makes the arches of the woodland ring.

Sometime will come the mottle-breasted thrush,  
And perch far up in yonder towering tree;  
And then be still, and you may hear the gush  
Of angel-taught exquisite melody.

A storm of song—the clear, sweet tones prevail  
O'er all the songs that fill the gladsome day;  
Echo, re-echo, swell again, and fail;  
Faint, fainter yet—and dying miles away.

Oh, spirit-bird, bird-spirit, it is true,  
We feel it true, while you are singing thus;  
You teach that grand old truth, forever new:  
“God is not far from any one of us.”

And so I love to linger by the farm,  
Adown the lane, through the old Patty place,  
And feel my pulses thrill and heart grow warm,  
While I commune with Nature, face to face.





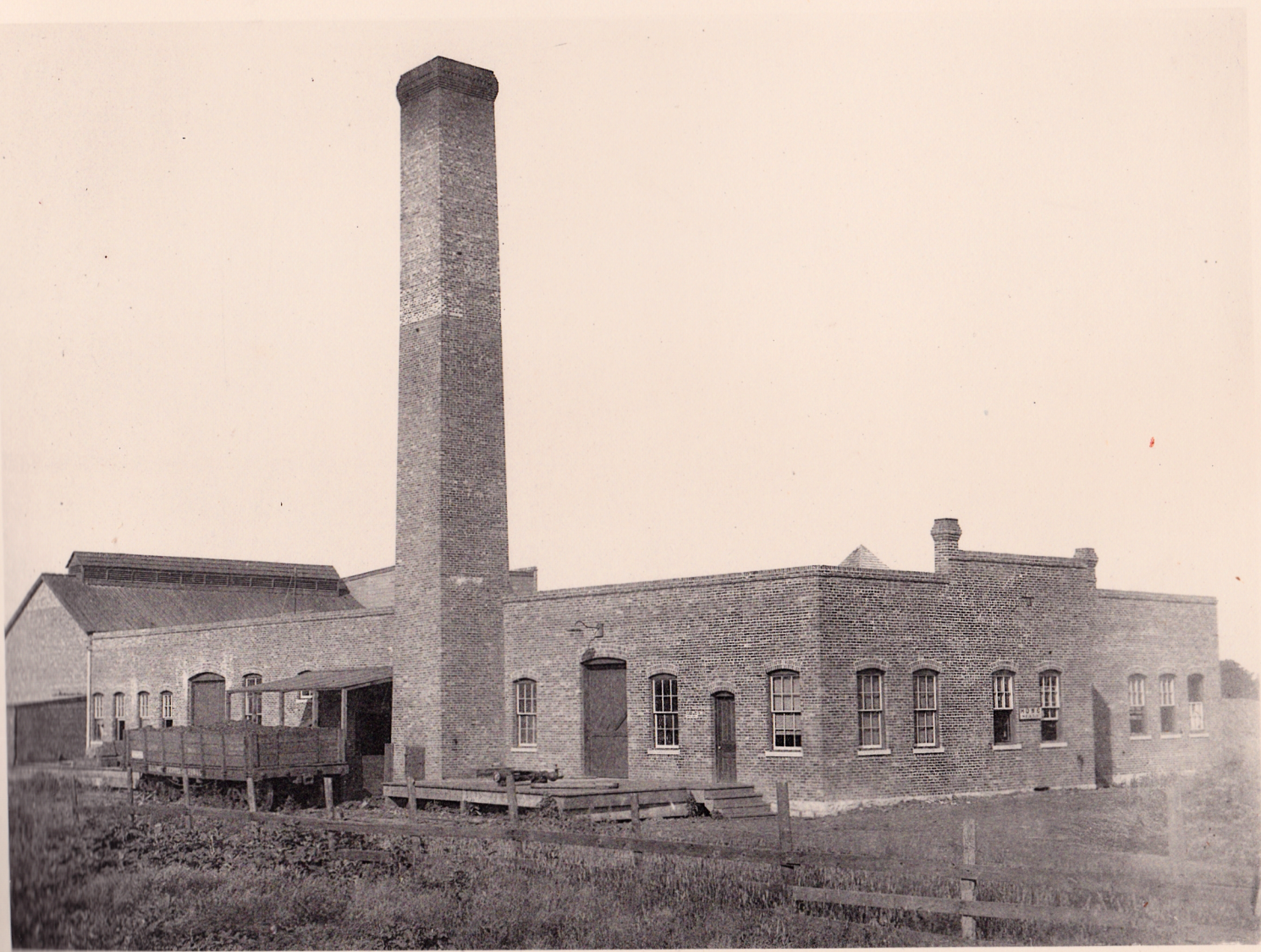
FROM FAIR GROUND'S LANDING.





RESIDENCE OF MAJOR E. M. JOHNSON.





Pontiac Paper Mills.





*NORTH SIDE OF SQUARE.*





PONTIAC SHOE FACTORY.





RESIDENCE OF G. S. SKINNER.





• Where the Boys Swim.  
Ice House in distance.



FOR OLD STAGER'S SOLILOQUY.

GOOD many strangers are coming here now,  
As I told Harvey Gunsul to-day;  
New forms and new faces will make us think how  
We old ones are passing away.

The town is improving and growing so fast,  
Old landmarks are fading from view,  
And whichever way my glances I cast,  
My old eyes can see something new.

The churches, six of them, with carpets and pews,  
With paid preachers to manage the works.  
Elder Stubbles; in them days, preached the glad news  
Till he gave the people the "jerks."

And the Phoenix, all brick and three stories high,  
With basement, it cuts such a swell,  
As I think of the days forever passed by,  
When Willet Gray kept a hotel.

And the postoffice, too, is wonderful now,  
With drawers and lock-boxes and that;  
When I can remember distinctly just how  
Jerome carried the mail in his hat.

And them Indian signs, where they sell the cigars,  
Lord! once we were thankful for pipes,  
When we heard not the rumble of railroad cars,  
And Ladd went hunting for snipes.

And fancy saloons, with wine, rum and gin,  
And little back rooms all so snug;  
Why, once we were glad to take our drinks in  
From the neck of a little brown jug.

And croquet and billiards and such games as these,  
Have banished the old games from sight;  
Then, on boxes and kegs, we sat at our ease,  
And played good old poker all night.

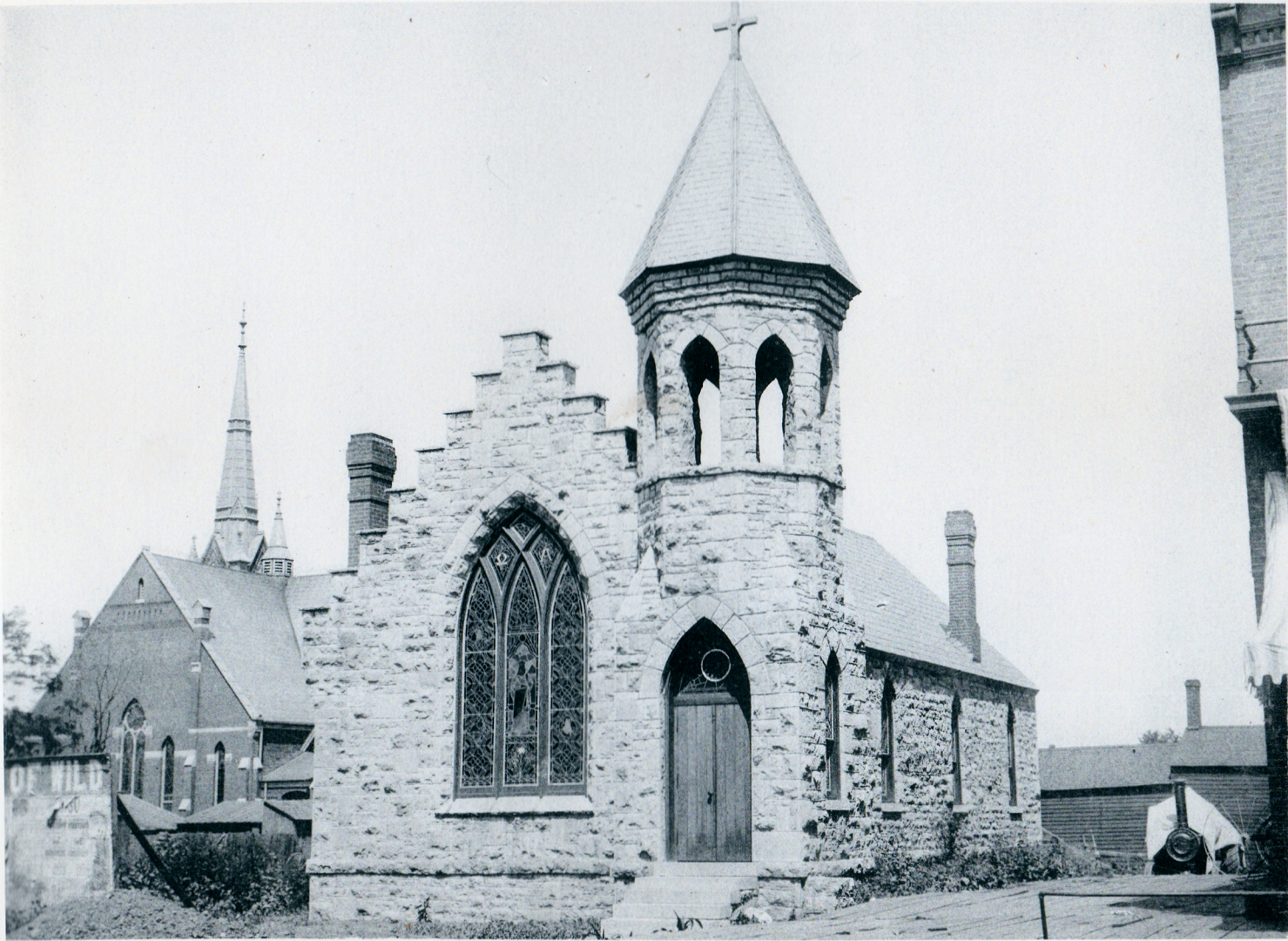
A good many strangers are coming here now,  
As I told Harvey Gunsul to-day;  
New forms and new faces will make us think how  
We old ones are passing away.





THE WABASH BRIDGE.  
Looking West.





*The Episcopal Church.*





HOME AGAIN





RESIDENCE OF J. E. MORROW.





THE PHOENIX.





RESIDENCE OF B. W. WHITE.







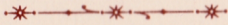
WEST SIDE OF SQUARE.

Looking South.





## THE NYMPH OF THE VERMILLION



I KNOW where a wood nymph dwells,  
Where a spring of water wells;  
Close beside a flowing river,  
Where the sunbeams dance and quiver  
Through the roof of my pavilion  
On the banks of the Vermillion.

First I knew the place was haunted  
By the many wild flowers planted  
In profusion, all in order  
'Round about the lovely border  
Of my leafy green pavilion,  
On the banks of the Vermillion.

Next I knew the birds were singing  
'Till the woodland isles were ringing  
With the secret they were telling,  
How a woodland nymph was dwelling  
Near my leafy green pavilion,  
On the banks of the Vermillion.

Long I wooed the fairy creature,  
Without seeing form or feature;  
She was shy, and always shyer  
When a stranger's step drew nigh her,  
In my leafy green pavilion  
On the banks of the Vermillion.

But one day she thought me sleeping,  
And two soulful eyes came peeping,  
And her fairy feet advancing,

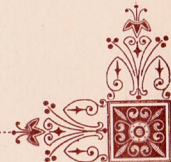
Lightly as the sunbeams dancing,  
Stepped within my green pavilion  
On the banks of the Vermillion.

There I lay with breath abated,  
Long and patiently I waited,  
That a glance I might be stealing,  
To my longing eyes revealing,  
There within my green pavilion,  
This wood-nymph of the Vermillion.

Softly, then my eyes unclosing,  
While I lay there shamming dozing;  
Up I started—every feature  
Of the fairy woodland creature,  
Showed me you in my pavilion,  
On the banks of the Vermillion.

'Twas your spirit come to greet me;  
Took this fairy form to meet me;  
Came to tell me you were caring  
For my friendship; you were sharing  
All my dreams in my pavilion  
On the banks of the Vermillion.

What we said there, I'm not telling;  
Ask the bubbling waters welling;  
Ask the tiny wild flowers growing;  
Ask the wild birds coming, going,  
All about my green pavilion  
On the banks of the Vermillion.







The Vermillion at Long Reach.





The Methodist Church.





RESIDENCE OF D. S. MYERS.





ALL ASHORE FOR MUGGS LANDING.

*a W Cowan*





Jail and Sheriff's Residence.





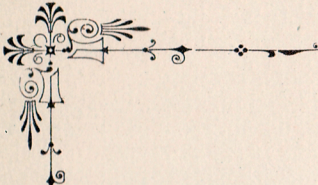
RESIDENCE OF MRS. H. A. AMENT.






ALL ABOARD FOR THE RACES.





## A DAY DREAM.



WHERE graceful elms their branches wave,  
And weave a green pavilion;  
I rested on a summer's day,  
Upon thy banks, Vermillion;  
And watched the burnished waterflies  
Dance many a quaint cotillion.

The graveyard on the river's bank  
Was in the sunlight sleeping;  
While lengthening shadows from the west  
Were onward slowly creeping,  
And all around was holy calm  
And all things were in keeping.

And memory waved her magic wand,  
Restoring forms and faces  
Of those who walked with us of yore,  
And filled familiar places;  
Then faded, faded from our sight  
Like day's departing graces.

And thus the hours sped swiftly by,  
Each dreamy sense entralling;  
A charm was on the earth and sky;  
The mystic spell was calling;  
And friends of yore still made reply,  
Till shades of night were falling.

I saw the manly form of one  
With regal head uplifted;  
A peer among earth's noble sons;  
Above his fellows gifted,  
Who fell as falls the mighty oak,  
With angry lightnings rifted.

I heard the gallant Captain Payne,  
His tales of warfare telling;  
I saw old honest Stephen Crane,  
And felt my bosom swelling  
When Ladd and Maples walked again  
About my leafy dwelling.

Then came Hugh Miller, trusty Hugh,  
Whose days were all too fleeting,  
And Edward Kent; firm, honest, true,  
Gave there to me his greeting;  
On rapid wings the moments flew,  
Through all this pleasant meeting.







THE BRIDGE BETWEEN N. AND S. PONTIAC.





LOOKING S. W. FROM COURT HOUSE TOWER.